

No. 7119	號九百壹千七第	日七廿月八年辰庚緒光	HONGKONG, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1880.	五拜禮	號壹月十英	港香	PRICE \$2 ¹ / ₂ PER MONTH
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第七千一百九十號

光緒庚辰年八月廿七日

HON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 1880

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禮 號壹月十英 港香

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Daily Press Office, 13th January, 1880.

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Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

Advertisements which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until discontinued.

MARRIAGE.

At Tokohama, on the 2nd September, Dr. O'Connell, Minister, of the Protestant Church, to Miss F. O'Connell, of Hongkong.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 1ST, 1880.

One of the ill effects of not having a Municipal Council in Victoria is that the affairs of the city are conducted without that discussion which is generally admitted to be favourable to successful administration. In English towns one of the chief objects commanding the attention of the local authorities is sewerage, and the reports of committees and the debates thereon in the Council Chamber afford the public ample facilities for acquiring a knowledge of the sanitary state of the town and of what is being done in regard to it. In Hongkong the taxpayer has only his own observation to rely on in this respect. There is not even the annual publication of a report by the Surveyor-General, although the Inspectors of Nuisances are attached to this department and the sewerage is under his control. The reports of most of the other heads of departments are published, but few are more important or interesting than that of the Surveyor-General would be. This reminds us that the report of the Colonial Surgeon has not yet appeared, although its speedy publication was promised by the Governor at the last meeting of the Legislative Council and two or three *Gazettes* have since been issued. An impression prevails that it will be found more than usually interesting and will contain references to the sewerage question. The importance of this subject in a tropical town cannot be over-estimated, and few, we think, will be found to take exception to the principles enunciated by the Governor at the last Council meeting, though the publication in the *Gazette* of documents two years old on a question long ago settled, i.e., the disposal of night soil from the Gaol, is in more than questionable taste. Were it supposed that the publication of the documents would serve any useful public purpose, surely that purpose would have been much better served by their publication two years ago. Laying aside, however, the question of disingenuousness in the publication of the papers at the present time, it must be admitted that a state of things has been disclosed sufficiently alarming and surprising, and one which would not have been tolerated for a month by a municipality. That the night soil of a large number of prisoners should have been daily emptied into a drain running through the centre of the town was simply incredible. That it was likely to lead to disastrous results there can be no doubt. In the middle town of Leicester the infantile death rate annually assumes alarming proportions during the summer months, and the faculty have been much exercised to find out the cause of these evils. How much more dangerous must be the accumulation of such gas in a town like that of Victoria is obvious, and the presence of it to some degree is evidenced by the offensive smell proceeding from the sewer traps in the streets after a spell of dry weather. For a town situated like this there can be no doubt that the extensive adoption of the water closet sys-

tem would have most deleterious effects. Not only is the passing of night soil through the town sewers objectionable, but grave danger arises from the eating away of the pipes in the houses, affording lodgment for offensive matter, giving off poisonous gases. We recollect some months ago reading in a medical paper an account of a case in which an outbreak of sickness in a house was traced to this cause. Illustrations in every showing how the pipes had in many places been eaten through, so that a portion of the matter, instead of being carried away was intercepted at these points and formed an accumulation generating the most noxious gas. In the dry weather system this danger is absent, as also is the more extensive danger of the generation of the miasma in the street sewers. That the Chinese could be brought to adopt it we do not for a moment believe, but failing that, their own bucket system, as it is termed, is probably the safest and the most suitable for the climate and the circumstances of the population. The removal of the contents of the buckets is certainly somewhat offensive, but it is not dangerous or only in a very small degree; while as regards the sewer the fact must be not least of light of that in the dry season there cannot possibly be any effective flushing for sometimes many weeks at a stretch, a state of things which very rarely happens in England. The Governor seems to think that this question has an important bearing on the water supply, but we fail to see in what way. Leaving aside the question of water-closets altogether, the fact remains that Victoria is supplied with water for purely domestic purposes on such a small scale as is simply a disgrace to a city of its size and importance.

SUPREME COURT.

30th September.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

REPORT THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR JOHN SMITH.

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